

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HJ-28

Title: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHIEF HAROLD TANTAQUIDGEON.

Vote Date: 2/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/13/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Patrick S. Boyd, 50th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Over the course of the 20th Century, Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon established himself as a pillar of the Native American community in Eastern Connecticut. A member of the Mohegan Tribe, joined the Coast Guard as a young man and quickly became one of the youngest chief petty officers in the United States. In World War II, while serving with the Air Force, his plane was shot down over New Guinea, and he kept his crew alive for twenty-three days. Upon returning to his family farm he lectured at the Tantaquidgeon Museum in Montville, where he played an integral role in preserving Native American heritage. This resolution seeks to honor the dedication of Chief Tantaquidgeon to his tribe, his state, and his country.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Allison Weir, Executive Director, CT Veterans Legal Center: Ms. Weir expressed her support for the resolution, recognizing the distinction of Chief Tantaquidgeon's decades of service with the Coast Guard.

Additional Comments: A number of people testified in support of the bill for the sake of honoring and commemorating veterans. Testimony was provided by:

- **Nancy Comeau**
- **Kieran Admonson**
- **William Sacchi**

- Randy Cyr
- Robert Wnek

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 2/26/2025